



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TIM ACKERT
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MEMBER
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To: Chairman Harp, Chairman Walker, Ranking Member Kane, Ranking Member Miner and members of the Appropriations Committee

From: Rep. Tim Ackert, 8th Assembly District

Date: April 5, 2011

Re: Proposed HB No 5649 AAC The Spending Cap

For the record I am Representative Tim Ackert and here to testify in support of **Proposed HB 5649- An Act Concerning The Spending Cap.**

Two decades ago the voters asked us to impose a budget spending cap for our state government. Over that time we have watched state spending rise over 250 percent while our population has been stagnant over the same period. The result of this careless approach has Connecticut facing multiple years of deficits, debt, and unfunded obligations nearing 70 billion dollars.

In our personal lives if we take this approach to spending more than we make at some point we lose everything. If a business takes this approach it will soon be out of business. I know it gets tiring to hear why can't government be more like business? As a business owner I know there is a distinct difference. Well government neither is nor should be considered a business.

However, spending is spending, and if there is not adequate income to support that spending then don't. And if we as a legislature cannot put in place a budget using the statutory cap that keeps the state from these structural deficits we should finally do as the voters asked us to do two decades ago.

It is not just time but it is overdue. Please support **Proposed HB 5649** and implement the constitutional limitation on spending by the General Assembly. Thank you for your time and dedication to Connecticut citizens.